

# The BUZZ WORD

Volume	Issue 1
	<b>14</b>
January	2023



It's all fun and games until...  
Santa checks his naughty list!



[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.**

**VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.**

*For any Further Questions, Please Contact:*

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**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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## *From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson*

Happy New Year,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin 2023 and move to more pre-COVID operations, I wanted to provide the following reminders:



1. Outings: If you are taking your loved one out of the facility for the day or over night and they will need medications for these outings, please let their charge nurse know at least 48 hours in advance. This will allow for the time needed to obtain the necessary medications from the pharmacy. State and Federal regulations prohibit our staff from taking your loved one's medications from their unit dose punch cards and putting them into another container and labeling this container.
2. Pets Visiting: We continue to welcome the visits from your four-legged furry friends. Please be sure that our receptionist has an updated copy of your furry friend's immunizations; these are required for visiting. Also, all pets must always remain on a leash or in a carrier when in the facility or on facility grounds. Please be kind and clean up after your pet, please dispose of your pet's "poop bags" in the dumpster at the back of the facility, not inside.
3. Labeling Clothing: When your loved one receives new clothing, please be sure to notify Nursing so they can have these items taken to the Laundry to be labeled. If your loved one is missing clothes, please reach out to Patti Parker, and she can see if the items are in our lost and found.
4. Transportation: VVH provides transportation to and from non-emergent medical appointments. Staff will be accompanying Veterans and Members on these appointments as deemed appropriate. We do not send staff to the emergency room with our Veterans and Members as they are accompanied by EMS staff. We do send medical information and speak to the hospital staff as needed. We do not provide facility staff to accompany Veterans/Members out to community activities (i.e., visits, home, movies, dinner). VVH staff members cannot be hired/paid for off-hour assistance with transportation. If you need this type of service, please reach out to your loved one's Social Worker.

As you may have heard, our previous Board of Trustees President, Joseph Krawczyk, passed away on December 12th. At the December 14th meeting of the Board of Trustees, Gary De Gasta was elected by the Board to serve as President. Board information can be found on the VVH website.

*Take Care, Melissa*







Cardinal Point gets into the spirit and residents decorate free standing and table top trees.



## THANK YOU

Representing the Arlington Lion's Club, Susan and John Toth brought socks, blankets and many other items from the Wish List for our Veterans and Members.

Happiness is a pair of warm mittens custom made by the American Legion Auxiliary Post 13.

Flanking Michele are American Legion Auxiliary Darlene Cumm and Donna Stone







## Wreaths Across America 2022



On Saturday, December 17, volunteers braved the cold to honor our Heroes at the VVH Cemetery in recognition for their service to their Country. The name of each fallen Hero was said aloud as a wreath was laid on the grave of a Veteran.



NORTH VILLAGE residents are in the holiday spirit putting finishing touches on the Christmas tree.



Activities Ice Cream Elves pose with Paul from Dietary getting ready to dish out ice cream to the residents.



Are they snowfolks or are they in disguise as Olaf from the Disney movie Frozen? Who cares?!!

They have **ICE CREAM!!!**





# VFW Christmas

R-Melissa, CEO, thanks the VFW for sponsoring a wonderful Christmas Party with the Harmonic Duo providing the music you can listen to or to "get your groove on" the dance floor.



## Party







Caroling, music  
and dancing...  
a good time was  
had by all.



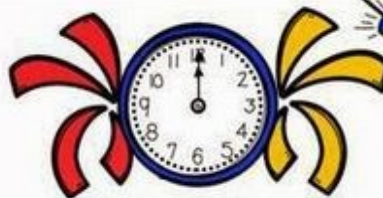
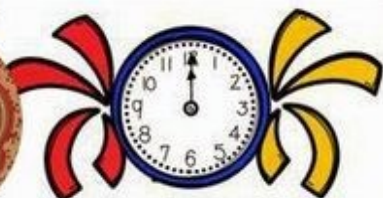
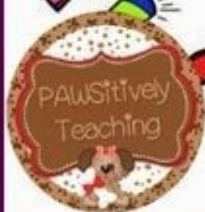


# New Year's Celebrations

## Around the World

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C	A	N	X	R	A	O	U	S	N	O	Y	T	B	L	A	N	O	R	H	E	D
K	O	E	E	T	S	F	A	B	I	N	A	B	R	C	C	D	R	A	G	O	N
S	C	S	L	W	E	N	R	C	G	E	R	A	E	C	K	S	H	T	I	O	E
L	K	S	T	I	O	S	Y	A	H	M	T	L	Y	L	C	T	W	I	D	P	W
A	I	T	E	U	P	A	N	P	T	K	E	L	N	L	L	N	E	O	O	U	Y
E	N	A	F	A	M	I	L	Y	W	Y	R	A	I	T	O	S	Y	N	H	G	E
R	N	R	B	A	L	E	D	R	E	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	H	I	A
B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	P	E	A	S	G	L	T	E	T	A	C	N	R

TRADITIONS	CELEBRATIONS	FOOTBALL	MIDNIGHT	PARADES
BELLS	FIREWORKS	JANUARY	NOISE	SUITCASE
GRAPES	CLOCK	GOOD LUCK	COSTUME	DRAGON
HAPPINESS	NEW YEAR	PLATES	FAMILY	FRIENDS
DATE	SYMBOL	WHIPPED CREAM	BLACK EYED PEAS	RING CAKE





# GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



The winner!



Judging the entries was a very difficult job as you can see by all the very creative entries.



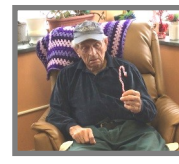
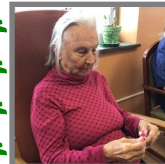
Thank you to the participants in the friendly competition.



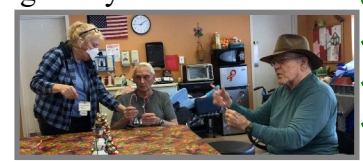
## Makings of a Gingerbread House



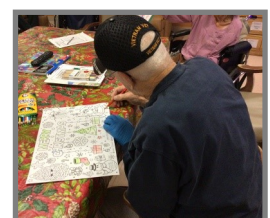
on Cardinal Point



Making candy canes for the tree



Festive Florals







Beverly Allen, VT State Hospital Chair, brought wheelchair & walker bags for Veterans & Members. She presented Asa, COO, with a very generous monetary donation. Also pictured is Michele of Activities.



A plethora of items from the wish list was given by the Henry N. Cutter Unit #59 American Legion. Pictured are Melissa, CEO; Darlene Cummm on behalf of Unit 59, Michele & Asa, COO.

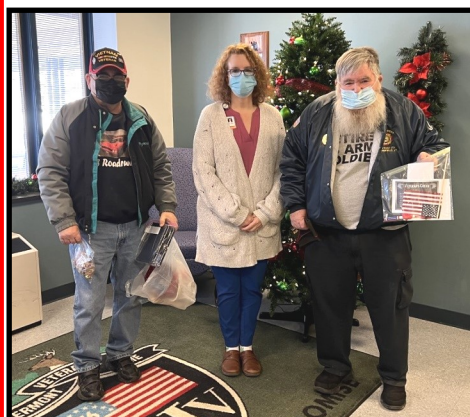


They take care of the Veterans and Members but they also take care of the Staff. American Legion Auxiliary Post 13 brought cookies to be distributed to all the neighborhoods as a thanks for all they do.

On behalf of Usborne Books & More, Heather Gardner and friend donated painting books.



A colorful array of warm gloves and cozy socks were donated by the Elks from Springfield, VT. L-R, Gloria Gunn, Melissa, CEO, resident Sue, Michele of Activities and Carolee Murchie.



Melissa, CEO, accepts a donation from the VFW of Springfield, VT. Presenting the gifts are (l) VFW Member Bill and Steve Leach, (r) past VT VFW Commander.

**TATOO ARTIST of VVH** DJ ran a tattoo parlor on American Way and Staff took advantage of his skills.



He was so gentle, didn't feel a thing



Waiting in line

DJ'S  
TATTOO'S  
OPEN  
WEDNESDAY  
10AM - 3PM  
WALK INS WELCOME





## Only at the Veterans' Home - Making Dreams Come True

Laurie Dix, Unit Manager on American Way, had a conversation with a Veteran on her neighborhood. He told her it was his dream to go hunting one more time. That is all Laurie needed to hear. She got her team (Lisa, Marianne, Rae Ann, Heather, Alexis and Ro) together to set the wheels in motion to make the dream come true.

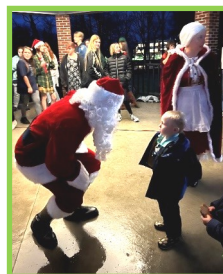
Ducks Unlimited donated camo garb. With the assistance of "Fallen Outdoors-Vermont Team", his hunting license was provided as was a rifle and ammo. Transportation to and from the hunting site was all set and a specialized chair with tracks would get him around. The only item needed was a pair of hunting boots which was secured by Rebecca Souza, Director of Nursing Services. Off they went hunting and actually saw 2 deer. What a great day for our VET!!



## COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING



Santa and Mrs. Claus join the MAUHS carolers for a sing-a-long after Chaplain Setzer gives the invocation. Santa hears special requests as Mrs. Claus listens.



*Oops!!* **CORRECTION:**

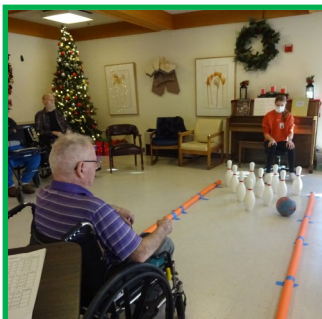
**Mr. Casilanova's** 3rd Grade class at Bennington Elementary School delivered cards to our Veterans and Members.



## AMERICAN WAY



## DECORATING & BINGO



## BOWLING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

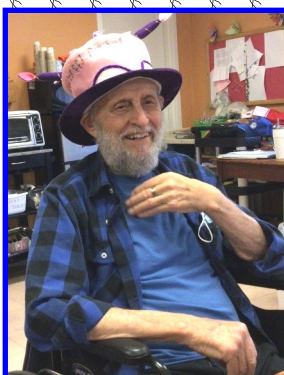




# Hill Country Cloggers



Audrey & Willy decorating





On behalf of the Veterans  
and Members, we sincerely  
thank the following for their  
generous donations:



Marlene Black  
Lyndonville VFW Auxiliary  
Bransfield  
Poultney American Legion Riders  
Springfield VFW Post 771  
Marcia Smith  
Karen & Robert Smith  
Department of Vermont VFW  
Tim Cumm  
SW Tech c/o A.W. Rogers  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 90  
VFW Auxiliary #758 — St. Albans  
Nancy Prouty & Family  
Bennington Co. Retired Teachers Assn.  
Vermont State Hospital  
Woman's Aux. of VFW Rutland Unit #31  
Nancy Riley  
Pownal American Legion Post 90  
DAR — Brattleboro  
Dover School  
Disabled Veterans Natl. Foundation, Inc.  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13  
Emmalee Jeski  
Laura Giorgi  
VFW Auxiliary Unit 798  
Silver Bells of BRAT P  
Terry Lynn Gervais  
Mary Baker & Ethan Allen DAR Cornwall  
Kaman Composites Employees  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
Lila Bendlak  
NorShaft Lions Club  
Brattleboro VFW Auxiliary 1034  
Usborne Books & More—Heather  
Gardner & Friends  
Mrs. Adrienne Sogno  
Andrews Brothers Foundation

Steve Leach  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 323  
Carl M. Dessaint VFW Auxiliary 1034  
Delta Dental Plan of New Hampshire, Inc.  
VFW Post 798 Auxiliary  
American Legion Riders Post 1  
WRCU  
M.T. & Barbara Hennessy  
Dept. of VT Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Springfield Elks  
Henry N. Cutting Unit #59 Am. Leg. Aux.  
Blue Spruce Grange  
Arlington Lion's Club

### VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

#### ADMINISTRATION

Melissa Jackson, CEO — 12 years  
Kim Telford — 15 years

#### CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Delores Burdick — 21 years  
Dawn Leonard — 11 years  
Lena Sterns — 4 years

#### DIETARY

Lawrence Goldwyn — 18 years  
Paul Yerke — 3 years

#### NURSING

Dawn Keus — 29 years  
Ann Carbin — 7 years  
Sheila Floyd — 7 years  
Ann Hatton — 6 years  
Kayla Perkins — 5 years  
Sandra Quakenbush — 2 years





### THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)

Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters

- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List (postal)

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland  
(802) 447-6523  
Email: [Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov](mailto:Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov)

### VVH WISH LIST

#### **"Music and Memory" Players**

A monetary donation of \$30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member.

Bingo Prizes  
Neck Pillows

Fidget Blankets Crafts

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

#### **THANK YOU**

Please make the check for monetary donations to:

Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

(Please note: due to the generous donations, we no longer need socks or baking goods.)



Due to COVID-19, we are still not able to accept:  
books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT  
DVDs due to modern technology of TV's and  
streaming availability.

We will keep you posted when changes are made.  
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Please indicate in the memo area of the check to which fund(s) you are donating:

#### Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members  
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing  
Other personal needs

#### Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation  
Supplies, Equipment

#### Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment  
Large purchase

#### Activities Fund:

Entertainment

#### Music & Memory Fund:

Memory Music Player

#### Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward  
a paved walkway around  
the perimeter of the VVH

#### Wreaths Across America 2023

Each \$15 donation will go towards the purchase of wreaths and ribbons for the 2023 ceremony

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICAN 2023 CAMPAIGN**

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

We humbly participate in this ceremony, however, due to the rising costs of wreaths and ribbon, we are asking for assistance in order to provide a wreath for each of our fallen Veterans.

Please consider making a \$15 donation for this worthy cause. We also welcome volunteers to participate in this solemn celebration of service to our Country.



## Ugly Sweaters? Really?



WE LIKE TO THINK  
**EXTREMELY FESTIVE**



***"FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the  
Veterans of Vermont and their families"***

Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

